

Association of Indian Pathologists in North America

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization www.aipna.net

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear AIPNA Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

Since its founding in 1995, AIPNA has built a remarkable legacy by bringing together pathologists of Indian origin, fostering professional and personal relationships, and advancing the education and practice of pathology across North America, India, and the global pathology community.

Education has always been at the heart of AIPNA's mission. As our field continues to evolve through advances in digital pathology, molecular diagnostics, artificial intelligence, precision medicine, and other emerging technologies, we have a responsibility to ensure that our members have meaningful opportunities to learn, share knowledge, and grow throughout

their careers.

AIPNA has a proud tradition of organizing educational programs and CME activities in North America, India, and internationally, including companion educational sessions at major pathology meetings. These programs provide valuable opportunities to learn from established leaders while also creating a platform for the next generation of pathologists to develop their skills and share their work.

Looking ahead, I envision an even stronger and more inclusive educational mission for AIPNA, with particular emphasis on:

- **High-quality continuing medical education** featuring contemporary, practical, and clinically relevant topics across all pathology subspecialties.
- **Educational programs at major national and international meetings** that bring together experts from North America, India, and around the world. Several AIPNA members will be presenting high quality educational material at the upcoming College of American Pathology annual conference in Las Vegas (CAP 26).
- **Mentorship and career development** for residents, fellows, and early-career pathologists. AIPNA's mentorship initiatives provide important opportunities to connect emerging professionals with experienced colleagues and leaders in the field.
- **Digital education** through webinars, online lectures, recorded presentations, virtual learning opportunities, and easily accessible educational content regardless of geographic location.
- **Global educational collaboration**, strengthening academic partnerships among pathology communities in North America, India, and beyond.

Our greatest educational resource is our membership. AIPNA is fortunate to include outstanding academic and community pathologists, subspecialty experts, laboratory physicians, residents, fellows, and early-career pathologists. The collective knowledge, experience, and talent within our organization are extraordinary. We must continue creating new opportunities for our members to share that expertise and learn from one another.

At the same time, education must be a two-way exchange. We have much to learn from our colleagues in India and across the world, particularly in areas of innovation, resource optimization, and the delivery of high-quality, accessible diagnostic services. AIPNA's longstanding collaborations with pathology organizations in India provide an exceptional foundation for this academic exchange.

I especially encourage our residents, fellows, and early-career members to become active participants in AIPNA. Bring us your ideas, your cases, your research, and your educational interests. Seek mentors, ask questions, present your work, and pursue leadership opportunities. The future of AIPNA depends on cultivating the next generation of educators, researchers, and leaders in pathology.

I also encourage our senior members to continue sharing their experience, expertise, and wisdom. Mentorship is one of the most meaningful contributions we can make to our profession. By connecting generations of pathologists, we can preserve the values and traditions that have made AIPNA successful while embracing the innovations that will define its future.

As we move forward, my goal is simple: to make AIPNA an even stronger educational home for every member of our pathology community. Together, we can build an organization where learning is continuous, mentorship is impactful, collaboration flourishes, and excellence in pathology is celebrated.

I invite each of you to actively participate in our educational programs, volunteer for committees, contribute cases and research, mentor colleagues, and share your vision for the future of AIPNA.

Let us build upon AIPNA's proud legacy and continue to learn, teach, mentor, collaborate, and advance pathology together.

With warm regards,

VIKAS MEHTA, MD

President

Association of Indian Pathologists in North America (AIPNA)

CAP HOUSE OF DELEGATE ELECTIONS

Please vote! Please support AIPNA members in this election!

- Arvind Rishi, MD FCAP
- Manimala Roy, MD FCAP
- Gaurav Sharma MD, FCAP

ARVIND RISHI, MD FCAP

CAP House of Delegates Steering Committee Member-at-Large

Dear Delegates,

I am writing to respectfully ask for your support in the upcoming election for the CAP House of Delegates Member-at-large position.

It has been a privilege to serve as an appointed Member-at-Large and liaison to the Council on Scientific Affairs. Prior to this role, I had the honor of chairing the House of Delegates Nominating Committee. These experiences have deepened my appreciation for the important work of the House and the impact we collectively have on our profession.

Since 2016, I have actively represented New York State in the CAP House of Delegates, participated in Hill Day advocacy efforts, and worked alongside colleagues to advance issues that matter to pathologists and the patients we serve. Through these opportunities, I have gained valuable insight into CAP governance, leadership development, and the potential of collaborative engagement.

If elected, I would welcome the opportunity to continue serving on the House of Delegates Steering Committee and further contribute to the College's missions of advocacy, quality, scientific excellence, and member engagement. I believe in thoughtful dialogue, building consensus, and ensuring that the voices of practicing pathologists are heard as our profession navigates a rapidly changing healthcare landscape, particularly with the staffing and reimbursement challenges and the advent of digitization and augmented intelligence tools.

My priorities for the next term are to:

- Strengthen advocacy, leadership development, and member engagement
- Promote the responsible integration of artificial intelligence and computational pathology by working in collaboration with the scientific committees
- Support and advance the scientific foundation of pathology practice and innovation in collaboration with inputs from our delegate members

I would be grateful for your vote and the opportunity to continue representing and serving our profession.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Arvind Rishi, MD FCAP

CAP House of Delegates Representative, New York State

MANIMALA ROY MD, FCAP

CAP House of Delegates Steering Committee



Dr. Roy is currently a practicing pathologist in Jersey Shore University Medical Center, New Jersey, where she is the Medical Director of Transfusion Services and is actively involved in surgical pathology. She is Board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology. Dr. Roy is the past President of New Jersey Association of Blood Bank Professionals. She is a current Professor in the Seton Hall School of Medicine N.J. Dr. Roy received her medical degree in AFMC, Armed Forces Medical College, India and served in the Indian army as a medical doctor. She completed her Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency in Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, where she was Chief resident. Dr. Roy practiced pathology in Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, NJ, where she was Associate Director, Dept of Pathology, Associate Director Blood Bank,

Chairman of Blood Utilization committee and served in several hospital committees for over 20 years. Dr. Roy joined Jersey Shore University Medical Center 15 years ago where she currently practices.

In the CAP, Dr. Roy has been an International and National CAP Laboratory Inspector for many years and is currently on the HOD steering committee, member at large. She is also a member of the COA, and past member of CMPD. Dr. Roy is the current Delegate Chair of New Jersey for the HOD CAP. She has served in several Action committees and in several Round Table discussions for the CAP and the Foundation.

She was the moderator for the annual CAP meeting for discussion on “Medical technology shortages” along with other distinguished speakers. She also was a presenter in the annual CAP meeting in discussion of “Locum Tenants” in Pathology. She has devoted many volunteer hours to the CAP and the HODSC. She has currently applied for the “Secretary” position in the “House Of Delegates Steering committee” and would be happy for your support.

Thank You.

GAURAV SHARMA, MD, FCAP

CAP House of Delegates Steering Committee Member-at-Large

YOUR PRACTICE. YOUR VOICE. OUR FUTURE.

YOUR HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

EXPERIENCE. SERVICE. REPRESENTATION.

My take:
If it affects your practice,
the **HOD** and the
broader **CAP**
should hear about it.

Make sure all voices are heard.

GAURAV SHARMA, MD, FCAP
★ FOR CAP HOUSE OF DELEGATES ★
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER-AT-LARGE

- System Vice Chair, Clinical Pathology
Henry Ford Health
- Associate Professor & Chair, Faculty Advisory Committee
Department of Pathology
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
- Immediate Past President
Wayne County Medical Society

MY PLATFORM

- LISTEN WIDELY**
to understand the real issues.
- CONNECT PEOPLE**
across practice settings and generations.
- TURN CONCERNS INTO ACTION**
that strengthen our profession.

MAKE SURE ALL VOICES ARE HEARD

PROVEN LEADERSHIP. DEEP CAP EXPERIENCE.

- ✓ 18 Years of Service Across 6 CAP Committees
- ✓ Past Chair of the **CAP15189** Committee
- ✓ 9 Years on the Standards Committee
- ✓ Member: Inspection Process & Quality Practices Committees
- ✓ Advisor: Practice Management Committee
- ✓ Led CAP Inspection Teams at Laboratories Across the Country
- ✓ Recipient: CAP Leadership Development Award (2010) and Pathology Advancement Award (2022)

HOW & WHEN TO VOTE

Electronic ballot will arrive from the CAP.

VOTING OPENS: Thursday, August 20, 2026
by 10 AM PT / 12 PM CT / 1 PM ET

VOTING CLOSES: Monday, August 31, 2026
by 10 AM PT / 12 PM CT / 1 PM ET

ALL VOTES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

YOUR VOTE DETERMINES WHO WILL LISTEN. | *Be Heard. Make an Impact.* | **PLEASE VOTE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

AIPNA NETWORKING SOCIAL AT CAP26

AIPNA Networking Social at the CAP Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 4, 2026 | 7:30 PM (Pacific Time)

Wynn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

Attending the CAP Annual Meeting in Las Vegas this October? Join us for the AIPNA Meet & Greet Social on Sunday, October 4 at 7:30 PM!

This informal social gathering is a wonderful opportunity for pathologists, trainees, colleagues, and friends to connect outside the scientific sessions. Meet fellow pathologists, reconnect with old friends, make new professional connections, and enjoy an evening of conversation and camaraderie with the AIPNA community.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! AIPNA MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED, AND THERE IS NO FEE TO ATTEND.

Whether you are a longtime AIPNA member, a trainee, or simply interested in meeting and networking with fellow pathologists, we would be delighted to have you join us.

 **Date:** Sunday, October 4, 2026

 **Time:** 7:30 PM (Pacific Time)

 **Location:** Wynn Hotel, Las Vegas, NV — Venue to be announced

 **Cost:** FREE

 **AIPNA Membership:** Not required

 **RSVP:** <https://forms.gle/JnR5Dnmz9zS61rCU9>

 **RSVP Deadline:** September 8, 2026

PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 8 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT. LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE.

Come connect, network, and celebrate

NEW IN PATHOLOGY

Astrazeneca Fellowship for physician scientists for digital pathology and AI training

The AACR-AstraZeneca Fellowship for Physician-Scientists for Digital Pathology and AI Training represents a joint effort to support the training and career development of pathologists with a strong interest in digital pathology, artificial intelligence, and/or computational pathology. This fellowship provides physician-scientists with integrated research experiences across academic and industry settings, offering a unique opportunity to gain practical, real-world experience in AI-driven cancer research and diagnostics.

The program is intended to provide fellows with a comprehensive research experience that supports their scientific development and builds expertise in digital and computational pathology. Through mentored research in both academic and industry settings, fellows will develop the skills and perspective needed to pursue independent careers in academic research, the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, or related fields, contributing to advances in cancer research at the intersection of technology and oncology.

Proposed research may be basic, translational, or clinical in nature and must be focused on digital and/or computational pathology.

Applicants are required to complete two years of research training, consisting of one year at their academic institution and one year with their assigned AstraZeneca team. The AstraZeneca training component is intended to provide an immersive experience in an industry setting, with strong preference for onsite work at the company's Gaithersburg, Maryland, or Cambridge, Massachusetts locations. The structure and scheduling of the industry-based training period may be flexible and will be determined through mutual agreement among the fellow, the fellow's institution, and AstraZeneca, provided that a cumulative total of one year is completed with the industry partner. Hybrid and remote work arrangements may be considered, as appropriate to the fellow's project and training plan.

[AACR | AstraZeneca | Digital Pathology & AI Training | Fellowship](#)

AIPNA COMPANION MEETING AT CAP

Please mark your calendars. AIPNA companion meeting at CAP 2026 with CME credits for the first time. We request all AIPNA members to attend and support this venture in order to make it successful!

AIPNA companion meetings highlight junior pathology faculty

Association of Indian Pathologists in North America (AIPNA) Companion Society Meeting: Looking Forward-What to Expect in 2026 and Beyond

- **Date:** Sunday, October 4, 2026
- **Time:** 2:00 PM-4:00 PM
- **Session Type:** CME Session
- **Course Code:** C2601



**Association of Indian
Pathologists in North America**
Learn : Network : Collaborate
A 501(C) (3) organization

Explore how rapidly evolving innovations are shaping the future of diagnostic pathology and disease screening. This session highlights emerging at-home approaches for cervical cancer and the growing impact of digital cytopathology, alongside the expanding use of digital sign-out workflows in surgical pathology.

Attendees will gain practical insights into diagnosing breast specimens, including common pitfalls and workflow strategies, and engage in a dynamic, case-based review of colitis beyond inflammatory bowel disease. Emphasis will be placed on key histologic clues, clinicopathologic correlation, and real-world approaches to enhance diagnostic confidence and patient care.

Moderator

Megha G. Joshi, MD, FCAP

Presentations

- *HPV Molecular Tests, Digital PAP Cytology: Trends Going Forward* Ritu Nayar, MD, MBBS, FCAP
- *Breast Pathology Sign-Out Through the Digital Lens* Malini Harigopal, MD
- *Spectrum of Colitis Beyond IBD* Binny Khandakar, MD, FCAP

Learning Objectives

- Review upcoming developments in digital PAP cytology and in-home HPV testing.
- Understand ease and pitfalls of digital breast sign-outs for primary diagnoses and excisions.
- Learn how to confidently diagnose causes of colitis other than IBD.

CME Credits: 2.00 | **Course Code:** C2601



Ritu Nayar

MD, MBBS, FCAP

Northwestern University Feinberg School



Malini Harigopal

MD

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



Binny Khandakar

MD, FCAP

Donald Barbara Zucker School of Medicine



Megha G. Joshi

MD, FCAP

Winchester Hospital, Beth Israel Lahey Health

SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE



AIPNA will be presenting occasional feature articles/interviews on internationally acclaimed eminent pathologists along with their thoughts on pathology and life outside pathology. The first in this installment is titled "A pathologist without borders" and features an eminent pathologist, academician and legend from India - Dr. Roque Gabriel Wiseman Roque Pinto, MD DNB.

Dr. Pinto is a Surgical Pathologist, Cytopathologist, and having performed a very large number of Post Mortems (Autopsies) both Pathological and Medico

Legal, Administrator, Researcher, Academics, Advisor to the Government of Goa on Health related issues and Chairman of International CMEs in Pathology in Goa from 1996 to date. He is a passionate pathologist, leader, mentor, and a kind and compassionate teacher.

Dr. Pinto's ideology

"Excellence in Medical Academics"

"Meritocracy"

"Ethics and Morality"

Dr. R.G. Wiseman Pinto hails from Assolna and Panaji in Goa, India whose distinguished career has significantly shaped medical education, pathology services, and academic medicine in Goa and India. A lifelong scholar, he consistently ranked at the top of his class from school through medical education, ultimately earning his MBBS, MD in Pathology, and DNB qualifications, while securing first place in MD Pathology under the University of Bombay. Joining the Department of Pathology at Goa Medical College in 1984, he rose through every academic rank to become Professor and Head of the Department for 21 years and later Dean of Goa Medical College and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Goa University. Throughout his career, he has modernized laboratory and blood bank services, established advanced academic programs including MD Immunohematology and Transfusion Medicine, and served in numerous leadership positions within Goa University, the Medical Council of India, the National Medical Commission, and the National Board of Examinations. Internationally recognized for his expertise in cytopathology, Dr. Pinto has served as President of several prestigious professional organizations, represented India in major global cytology bodies, and been invited as faculty, speaker, moderator, and chairperson at scientific meetings across more than 50 countries spanning five continents. A passionate advocate for excellence in medical education, he pioneered innovative academic initiatives in Goa, established visiting faculty programs bringing renowned experts to the state, and contributed to the development of medical education policies and standards. With over 300 scientific publications, numerous books and e-books, editorial leadership in national and international journals, and nearly three decades of organizing major scientific conferences, Dr. Pinto has left an enduring legacy in pathology, research, medical education, and healthcare administration. His numerous awards, orations, scholarships, and national and international recognitions reflect a lifetime of exceptional service, scholarship, leadership, and dedication to advancing medicine and medical education.





Recently, AIPNA had the opportunity to request Dr. Pinto to share his views about pathology and guide our trainee and junior pathologists. Here are some excerpts from his interview:

What made you decide to come into pathology

Dr. Pinto:

I believe I have been blessed with God-given qualities such as a sharp memory, intelligence, common sense, and an analytical mind. When I chose pathology as my specialty, histopathology, cytopathology, and pathological autopsy services in Goa were largely unexplored fields with very few trained specialists in the 60s, 70s and 80s. I saw an opportunity to contribute to the development of these disciplines. Pathology fascinated me because it explained the concepts, mechanisms, and pathophysiology of disease, while serving as a bridge between the preclinical and clinical sciences. It offered tremendous variety and taught me the importance of viewing every case holistically by integrating clinical findings, imaging, laboratory data, histopathology, cytology, immunohistochemistry, genomics, and, increasingly, artificial intelligence.

My career taught me far more than medicine. From an early age, serving as Head of the Blood Bank helped me develop leadership, communication, and administrative skills. I learned to treat everyone equally, regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity, or position, and to respect colleagues, staff, students, patients, and the public alike. Over the years, I learned the value of remaining calm under pressure, developing a thick skin, maintaining a positive outlook, building strong professional networks, and being humble, compassionate, and helpful. Most importantly, I learned to accept my mistakes, learn from them, apologize when necessary, and continue growing both professionally and personally. These principles have guided me throughout my career as a physician, teacher, administrator, and mentor.

How to have a successful career as an academic pathologist

Dr. Pinto:

First and foremost, learn to be happy and enjoy what you do. Work hard, read extensively, and never stop learning. In pathology, there is no substitute for seeing large numbers of slides and cases. Examine as many histopathology, cytopathology, hematology, and autopsy specimens as possible. If you are posted in one section, complete your work there but also take the opportunity to study interesting and rare cases from other sections. Read textbooks, recent advances series, scientific literature, WHO classifications, and specialty-specific books covering individual organ systems. Keep your eyes and ears open, stay curious, learn new disease entities and risk factors, and embrace emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. The more cases you see and the more you read, the stronger and more confident your diagnostic abilities will become.

- Equally important are the values that shape your character. Be humble, disciplined, punctual, reliable, honest, and dedicated. Respect your teachers, seniors, juniors, non-medical staff, patients, and colleagues. Maintain good professional relationships, avoid unnecessary criticism and comparisons, and focus on your own growth. Stay calm under pressure, think positively, and learn from both your own mistakes and those of others. In a world often affected by envy, insecurity, favoritism, and materialism, I firmly believe in merit, academic excellence, academic honesty, integrity, and transparency. Mix tradition with modernity, uphold your self-respect and dignity, and remember that values are more important than valuables. Research and clinical studies should ultimately benefit society, and one should never become a slave to money or wealth. I have always believed in doing what I like and liking what I do, and that philosophy has brought me both professional fulfillment and personal happiness.

How to network, organize and chair meetings

Dr. Pinto:

One of my strongest recommendations is to attend as many academic meetings, CMEs, workshops, updates, and conferences as possible, even if you have to pay from your own pocket. Consider them an investment in your future. Prepare by reading about the topics beforehand, take notes during sessions, and actively participate by asking questions. If you are hesitant to speak during the discussion, meet the faculty during tea or lunch breaks. Introduce yourself, exchange contact information, and continue the academic dialogue through email after the meeting. These interactions often develop into valuable mentorships, collaborations, and lifelong professional relationships.

At an early stage of your career, learn how to organize academic events. Begin by helping with departmental meetings, then progress to interdepartmental, institutional, regional, national, and eventually international conferences. Such involvement enhances your organizational, leadership, and networking skills while increasing your visibility within the academic community. Publish as much as possible, present your work regularly at scientific meetings, and contribute actively to professional organizations through executive positions, editorial boards, and committees. Over time, these efforts will help you become a recognized faculty member, moderator, and chairperson within your specialty. Most importantly, be patient. Success in academics is a gradual process built on consistent hard work, perseverance, professionalism, and dedication. As you continue to learn, contribute, and grow, you will steadily climb the academic ladder and achieve your goals.

Any anecdotal incidents that increased your passion for pathology

Dr. Pinto:

I RGW Pinto was, is and will be fiercely passionate about Pathology.

Many events and incidences lead to a further multiplier effect as my Pathology ball path progressed:

- In 1996 I attended as a delegate a Pathology Course organised by the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center NY USA as an outreach teaching programme in Catholic University Rome. I was invited and attended the same. The star speaker among other luminaries was Dr Juan Rosai who delivered many lectures and talks on all 3 days. I was enthralled and asked many Questions and made many comments on different topics. It was a world class event and Pathologists and Fellows and Residents from all over the world attended. I created such an impression that on the last day Dr Juan Rosai commented — "this man from Goa is asking very difficult Questions". I invited him to Goa, and india. He did come to Bombay after many years. So at that time I knew i was creating an impression at the world level.
- The first CME I organised was in 1996, I was not sure how it would perform. I invited Dr Anita Borges, Dr RF Chinoy and Dr D. Hazarika. It was a grand success with 300 delegates. This gave me the confidence of organization. My wife Lalita was the brain in finance, organisation and administration of this. Since then there was no looking back. We have organised many CMEs, Conferences and updates for the last 30 years.
- Dr Adelaide in Lisbon used to visit another nursing home in the suburb. She used to give me a lift in her car. I used to see the slides with her. One day there was a brain tumor. I diagnosed it as Germinoma. She was shocked. After few days she complimented me that my diagnosis was correct without seeing the immunos.

WELLNESS CORNER

The month of August was originally known as *Sextilis* in the Roman calendar and was later renamed in honor of the Emperor Augustus Caesar. It is a month of transition in the Northern Hemisphere, marked by summer vacations, the return to school, and the gradual resumption of busy schedules. During such periods, it is important to prioritize wellness, make time for hobbies, and engage in activities that help relieve the stresses of daily life.

As this issue of the newsletter features Dr. R.G. Wiseman Pinto, AIPNA is thankful to him for sharing tips on how he maintains balance outside his demanding career in medicine, academics, and administration.

I believe that maintaining a healthy balance between professional responsibilities and personal interests is essential for a happy and productive life. I have always been an early riser, typically waking up at 3:00 a.m. each day. After drinking water, I prepare a "to-do" list for the day and carry forward any unfinished tasks to the next day's list. I enjoy staying informed by listening to podcasts and discussions by leading journalists and commentators such as Shekhar Gupta, Rajdeep Sardesai, Karan Thapar, Tavleen Singh, Barkha Dutt, and Fareed Zakaria. Music is another important part of my life, and I enjoy listening to Konkani, Portuguese, and Latin American music, as well as classics from ABBA, The Beatles, Queen, and orchestral performances conducted by Zubin Mehta. I also enjoy watching memorable FIFA World Cup moments featuring legends such as Pelé, Maradona, and Messi, and I make it a point to walk for an hour every day.



Beyond medicine, I have a deep interest in writing and public engagement. I regularly contribute articles to *PatholIndia* and Goan newspapers and have delivered more than fifty health-related programs on CCRTV's YouTube platform over the past year. I enjoy organizing class reunions, researching the history of medicine, Panaji, Goa, and India, and preparing e-books and educational notes. I am passionate about Goan culture and heritage and enjoy Mando festivals, Fado performances, ballroom dancing, and interacting with interesting people from diverse backgrounds. I also appreciate Goa's natural beauty, from the Sal River and Cabo de Rama Fort to Mobor Beach, Betul, Assolna, and other scenic locations. Reading remains one of my favorite hobbies, particularly books by Khushwant Singh, Chetan Bhagat, Coomi Kapoor, and Bachi Karkaria, as well as works on Goan history, culture, heritage, and the Goan diaspora. I also enjoy agricultural activities in my ancestral village and savoring traditional Goan cuisine. These interests help me stay intellectually engaged, socially connected, and mentally refreshed while continuing to contribute actively to medicine, education, and society.

AIPNA would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Dr. R.G. Wiseman Pinto for generously sharing his time, wisdom, and experiences with our readers. His reflections on pathology, academics, professional growth, leadership, and life beyond medicine offer invaluable guidance to pathologists at every stage of their careers. The insights he has shared are truly "pure 22-carat gold" and represent lessons gained through decades of scholarship, service, and leadership.





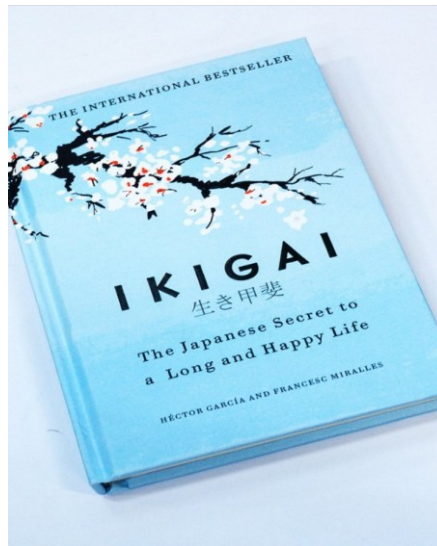
Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Pinto's advice reminds us that success is not measured solely by academic achievements, publications, or professional titles, but also by the values that sustain us throughout our journey. His emphasis on hard work, lifelong learning, humility, integrity, resilience, wellness, and maintaining interests outside of work provides a blueprint for building not only a successful career but also a fulfilling and balanced life. AIPNA hopes that our readers will find inspiration in his words and carry forward these timeless principles as they pursue excellence in pathology while prioritizing their health, happiness, and well-being.



Warm Regards,
LAKSHMI HARINATH, MD, MPH
Associate Editor, AIPNA Newsletter

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

IKIGAI



For this edition of the AIPNA newsletter, I would like to recommend *Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life* by Héctor García and Francesc Miralles.

Ikigai is a simple yet thoughtful book centered around the Japanese concept of finding meaning and purpose in everyday life. Rather than defining fulfillment solely through major accomplishments, the book encourages us to appreciate meaningful work, relationships, curiosity, healthy routines, and the small things that give each day a sense of purpose.

As physicians and pathologists, our lives can easily become centered around training, deadlines, examinations, research, and professional milestones. *Ikigai* offers a gentle reminder that while ambition and hard work are important, so are balance, relationships, personal interests, and finding joy in the process.

What I particularly appreciate about the book is its accessible and optimistic approach. It does not offer a rigid formula for happiness; instead, it encourages us to reflect on what keeps us engaged, motivated, and connected to the people and activities we value.

For anyone navigating a demanding professional journey—or simply looking for a refreshing perspective on living with purpose—I think *Ikigai* is an enjoyable and worthwhile read.

AIPNA MEMBER'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Please send in your achievements for our newsletter. AIPNA would be delighted to highlight the successes of its members. Please let us know of any books published, manuscripts accepted, conferences attended, and successes achieved in non-pathology fields.

AIPNA activities

AIPNA is active in fostering collaborations and helping pathologists network. We are delighted to share a visiting assistant Professor's experience with AIPNA.

DR. RAMYA SURESH

Assistant Professor, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bengaluru

My AIPNA Experience

Sometimes, the most meaningful professional opportunities begin with a conversation that neither person expects to lead anywhere.

My two-week observership at Winchester Hospital under Dr. Megha Joshi was one such experience—and it began, rather unexpectedly, with a meeting in India.

A conversation that connected continents

During the IAPM meeting in Jammu, my mentor, Dr. Vijay Shankar, happened to meet Dr. Megha Joshi. What began as a professional conversation soon moved beyond pathology, as conversations about passion, interests and life outside medicine revealed another fascinating connection: Dr. Megha is a dancer.

As they spoke, details about me were exchanged, and yet another unexpected connection emerged. Our spouses, both musicians, had actually played music together—another little thread connecting people and places in ways none of us could have anticipated.

Dr. Vijay subsequently put Dr. Megha and me in touch. What began as a casual outreach to Dr. Megha eventually transformed into an incredible opportunity: a two-week observership at Winchester Hospital.

It was a beautiful reminder that professional networks are not merely about careers. They are about people, shared passions, friendships and the serendipitous connections that can open doors.

Two weeks at Winchester Hospital

My observership offered me an immersive experience in surgical pathology and digital pathology, with exposure to a substantial high-volume gastrointestinal pathology workload, along with significant breast pathology and female genital tract pathology.

The experience was particularly valuable because it allowed me to observe not only diagnostic approaches and workflows, but also how technology and infrastructure can fundamentally change the way pathology is practiced.

One of the most striking differences was the sheer efficiency of the healthcare system and the accessibility of information. Top Grade. Patient information could be accessed seamlessly across hospitals, cities and even states. The Epic portal was, quite literally, EPIC—a one-stop access point for clinical information, radiology, laboratory investigations and other relevant patient details.

For a pathologist, this degree of integration makes an enormous difference. Having information readily available at the time of diagnosis provides context and allows pathology to become an even more meaningful part of patient care.

The Laboratory Information System (LIS) further demonstrated how well-integrated digital systems can streamline the diagnostic workflow.

Technology that makes pathology smarter

Another fascinating experience was seeing ‘Dragon’, a voice-to-text technology being used for pathology reporting. The ability to dictate reports and have them efficiently converted into text was an impressive example of how technology can reduce the administrative burden on pathologists.

Digital pathology was another major highlight. Exposure to Diagnexia and the digital workflow provided a glimpse into how pathology is increasingly moving beyond the microscope and into a connected digital ecosystem.

And then there was my new favorite IHC—Micro 1! Colourful yet simple.

For someone accustomed to the traditional workflow, seeing these technologies integrated into routine practice was both exciting and thought-provoking. It made me reflect on how much potential exists for technology to improve efficiency without compromising the human expertise at the heart of pathology.

From the sign-out room to the operating room

The observership was not restricted to sitting behind a microscope.

There were moments when pathology meant literally rushing to radiology for ultrasound-guided FNAs and CT-guided FNAs to check for adequacy of the sample using Diff Quick stains.

These experiences provided an opportunity to see the dynamic interface between the pathologist and intervention radiologist, reinforcing the importance of rapid communication and multidisciplinary collaboration in diagnostic pathology.

When pathology meets dance

Perhaps one of the most special aspects of this entire journey was that my professional connection with Dr. Megha also became a bridge between two of my greatest passions—pathology and Bharatanatyam.

During my stay, I had the wonderful opportunity to conduct a dance adavu workshop in Boston.

To be able to travel across continents as a pathologist while simultaneously sharing the art form I love was incredibly fulfilling. It was another reminder that our identities need not be confined to our professional titles. Medicine and art can coexist, enrich one another and create connections in unexpected places.

Beyond the hospital

The experience was not all microscopes, slides and reporting.

Some of my favourite memories were made outside the hospital—biking and swimming every day at Mystic Lake. These simple routines provided a wonderful balance to the intensity of the observership and allowed me to experience a little of everyday life in the community.

And then there was the food!

I was fortunate to experience wonderful homely Maharashtrian food lovingly prepared by Dr. Megha’s mother, fondly called Aaji. Those meals were much more than food; they brought warmth, familiarity and a sense of home thousands of miles away from Bengaluru.

More than an observership

Looking back, these two weeks were much more than an academic observership.

They were an opportunity to observe a different healthcare system, understand the possibilities of digital pathology, experience advanced infrastructure, learn from colleagues, exchange ideas and appreciate the importance of multidisciplinary care.

But most importantly, they were an experience of connection.

A chance meeting at a conference. A conversation about dance. A mentor who thought to make an introduction. Two professionals discovering common interests. A casual message that became an invitation. And an international experience that combined pathology, technology, dance, friendship, food and family.

I am incredibly honored and humbled to see how nonprofit organizations across countries can connect professionals and create opportunities for everyone.

This experience has reinforced my belief that organizations such as AIPNA and IAPM can serve as bridges—not merely between institutions or countries, but between people, passions and possibilities.

I return from Winchester with new knowledge, new perspectives and, perhaps most importantly, new connections.

And I am deeply grateful to Dr. Vijay Shankar for making that first connection, Dr. Megha Joshi for opening the doors to Winchester and welcoming me so warmly, and AIPNA for being part of the larger network that makes such experiences possible.

Sometimes, the most extraordinary journeys begin with a simple conversation.

And sometimes, all it takes is one person saying, *“You should meet her.”*

RESIDENT CORNER

We welcome our resident member, Dr. Subramaniam Ramkumar, who will be taking over the resident’s corner.

Transitioning from India to a Life in the USA



Moving from India to the United States has been a long and meaningful journey of perseverance, hard work, learning, and gratitude. Adapting to a new country, healthcare system, and professional environment was an interesting challenge to navigate, but every step brought new experiences and people who helped make the journey worthwhile.

Some of my early pathology rotations in the United States were particularly eye-opening. My experience at Winchester Hospital with Dr. Joshi gave me valuable exposure to pathology practice in the U.S. and helped me understand differences in diagnostic approaches, laboratory workflows, communication, and multidisciplinary care. My rotation at the University of Minnesota was equally enriching and introduced me to a collaborative academic environment where learning and mentorship were strongly encouraged.

I recently completed my Surgical Pathology Fellowship at the University of Minnesota, which was an immensely valuable year of learning and professional growth. Along this journey, I was also fortunate to gain additional exposure to digital pathology and artificial intelligence. This gradually became an area of special interest for me, and I continue to build on that experience through ongoing research and digital pathology projects. I am now grateful and excited to transition into Pathology Residency at the University of Minnesota, where I had the privilege of matching and continuing the next chapter of my training.

The journey from India to this point has required patience, persistence, and a willingness to continually adapt and learn. More importantly, it would not have been possible without the kindness and encouragement of many mentors, colleagues, friends, and well-wishers along the way.

As I begin residency, I remain deeply grateful for the opportunities, mentorship, and support I have received along the way. Moving to a new country has taught me the importance of being open-minded, patient, adaptable, and willing to learn from everyone around me. Mindful that there is always more to learn, I look forward to continuing this journey with humility and curiosity, while contributing wherever I can to the pathology community that has welcomed and supported me.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Breast Pathology international workshop and conference:** 3rd and 4th October, 2026, PGIMS, Rohtak, Haryana, India
- **IAPM, Coimbatore:** December 2026
- **Goa conference:** Jan 2027
- **JIPMER Conference Pondicherry:** FEB 2027

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear AIPNA Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

It is my pleasure to bring you the **August 2026 edition of the AIPNA Newsletter**. This issue reflects many of the qualities that make AIPNA special, education, mentorship, professional connection, global collaboration, and a commitment to supporting pathologists at every stage of their careers.

As pathology continues to evolve rapidly, our professional community becomes increasingly important. Digital pathology, artificial intelligence, molecular diagnostics, and new models of practice are transforming our field. In this issue, we highlight the **AACR-AstraZeneca Fellowship for Physician-Scientists in Digital Pathology and AI**, an exciting example of how training opportunities themselves are evolving alongside our profession.



We are also looking forward to an exciting **CAP26 in Las Vegas**. For the first time, the AIPNA Companion Society Meeting at CAP will offer CME credit, providing an educational program focused on emerging developments in diagnostic pathology. Equally important is the opportunity simply to connect with one another. I warmly invite everyone attending CAP to join us for the **AIPNA Networking Social on Sunday, October 4 at 7:30 PM at the Wynn Hotel**. The gathering is free, AIPNA membership is not required, and everyone in the pathology community is welcome.

This issue also recognizes AIPNA members **Dr. Arvind Rishi, Dr. Manimala Roy, and Dr. Gaurav Sharma** as they participate in the CAP House of Delegates elections. Their willingness to serve and represent our profession exemplifies the leadership and professional engagement that we hope to encourage throughout our community.

One of the highlights of this edition is our special feature on **Dr. R.G. Wiseman Pinto**. His extraordinary career and reflections remind us that professional success is built not merely on titles or publications, but on curiosity, hard work, integrity, humility, resilience, mentorship, and a willingness to keep learning. Just as importantly, his reflections in our Wellness Corner remind us to maintain interests and relationships beyond medicine and to build a life that is fulfilling as well as professionally successful. This message is echoed in our book recommendation, *Ikigai*, which encourages us to seek purpose not only in major achievements but also in meaningful work, relationships, healthy routines, and the everyday experiences that bring us joy.

Perhaps some of my favorite contributions in this edition demonstrate the power of **connection**. Dr. Ramya Suresh shares how a conversation at an IAPM meeting ultimately led to a two-week observership with Dr. Megha Joshi at Winchester Hospital—an experience spanning surgical pathology, digital pathology, technology, mentorship, friendship, and even a shared passion for dance. Her story beautifully illustrates how organizations such as AIPNA can serve as bridges between people, institutions, countries, and opportunities.

We are equally pleased to welcome **Dr. Subramaniam Ramkumar**, who will be taking over our Resident Corner. His journey from India to the United States, culminating in a Surgical Pathology Fellowship and now Pathology Residency at the University of Minnesota, is a story of perseverance, adaptability, gratitude, and the profound impact that mentorship can have on a young physician's career.

Ultimately, that is what I hope our newsletter continues to become: **more than a collection of announcements and articles, but a place where our community learns about one another, celebrates one another, and creates new connections.**

I encourage every AIPNA member, whether you are a resident beginning your journey or a senior pathologist with decades of experience, to contribute. Send us your achievements, educational opportunities, interesting experiences, photographs, reflections, and ideas. Tell us about the book you published, the paper that was accepted, the conference you attended, the mentor who influenced you, or even an accomplishment completely outside pathology. **This is your newsletter, and we want it to reflect the remarkable breadth of our community.**

Thank you to all our contributors, editors, AIPNA leadership, and members who made this issue possible. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed bringing it together.

Warm Regards,

AKANKSHA GUPTA, MBBS, MD, FASCP, FCAP

Lead newsletter editor, AIPNA